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Missoula releases first-ever Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory

MISSOULA, MT – Today Climate Smart Missoula and the City of Missoula release our community’s first-ever greenhouse gas inventory. Now the community has a thorough baseline account of the sources of our emissions, allowing us to update Missoula’s Community Climate Smart Action Plan and work toward the ambitious goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. The engaging and easy to follow report is available here: <http://www.missoulaclimate.org/inventory-and-metrics.html>.

“We’re thrilled to have a robust understanding of how and where we use energy in our community, and we look forward to engaging with our community to reduce our carbon footprint and build a healthier and more resilient Missoula,” notes one of the report’s authors, Climate Smart Missoula’s Director Amy Cilimburg.

Chase Jones, Conservation and Climate Action Plan Coordinator for the City of Missoula, is also excited to release this report: “We’re incredibly grateful to all those who contributed data to these efforts, helped populate the carbon calculator, and reviewed our work. Once again, it’s teamwork that moves efforts forward in Missoula. Let’s continue the good work of reducing our emissions right here in Missoula.”

[The Inventory Report](#) includes an executive summary, methodology, map of our boundary, overall emissions data, sector specific information, and more. And although the report stands alone, here is a quick Q & A to assist:

What is this greenhouse gas inventory? It is a comprehensive account of the sources of carbon emissions for our community for the year 2014.

What is the scope? We used a boundary slightly larger than the City limits (i.e., the Urban Development Area) and tallied energy use for transportation, residential, commercial and industrial buildings and enterprises, and solid waste.

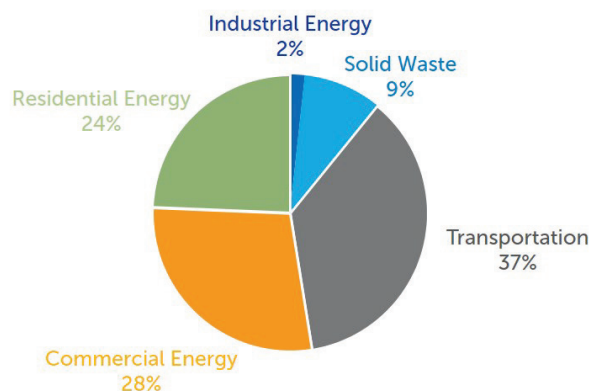
Why this effort? Accurate emissions numbers provide a baseline so we can understand how best to prioritize actions and measure success at reducing our community’s carbon pollution.

Hasn’t the City of Missoula already done and reported this? The City has a comprehensive emissions inventory for *municipal* operations only; this report includes our entire community. The City’s expertise in completing such an inventory allowed this one to come to fruition.

Community Emissions, by Sector

What are a few key findings?

- Our overall footprint is 913,250 metric tons (MT) CO₂e. Given the 2014 population data for this area (84,239 individuals, 35,399 households), this is an average of ~10.84 MT CO₂e/person.
- Our sector-specific energy breakdown is: Transportation (37%), Commercial Energy (28%), Residential Energy (24%), Solid Waste (9%), and Industrial Energy (2%).



What is a metric ton of CO₂e? MT CO₂ is a single unit of measurement that makes it easier to communicate how various sources of greenhouse gases compare as contributors to a changing climate, and is equivalent to approximately 2,200 pounds. For comparison, to produce one MT CO₂, a person would need to drive ~2500 miles in a medium-sized car.

The report provides much more information.

Climate Smart Missoula and The City of Missoula continue to partner and work on various projects to reduce our energy use, expand renewable energy, and help implement both the municipal and community Climate Action Plans. This inventory guides our efforts.

With this inventory in hand, Climate Smart Missoula is moving forward with three “Smart Initiatives”. [Energy Smart](#) is a new effort challenging Missoulians to cut home energy use 10% by 2018, and [Solar Smart](#) continues to increase residential solar arrays in this region. We’re also ramping up Year Two of [Summer Smart](#), our initiative to prepare our community to thrive amid increasing summer wildfire smoke and heat by helping Missoulians to be physically and mentally healthy and resilient.

The City of Missoula continues with action steps toward meeting municipal climate goals, and along with myriad other efforts, is busy developing our Community’s [Zero by Fifty: Missoula’s Pathway to Zero Waste](#).

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Learn more about Climate Smart Missoula here: climatesmartmissoula.org

Learn more about the City of Missoula’s Climate and Energy Programs here: <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/956/Energy-and-Climate-Action>